

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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FOR OES/APT/SEP

EO 11652N/A
TAGS: OSCI, TGEN, PL
SUBJ: SFCP: ADMINISTRATION OF THE JOINT FUND FOR S&T

REF: A. WARSAW 8876, B. STATE 281666, C. WARSAW 8180

1. AT STEFAN KAPUSTA'S REQUEST, THE SCIATT CALLED AT THE FINANCE MINISTRY DECEMBER 19 TO DISCUSS JOINT BOARD MATTERS. THE POLISH PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED FRANCISZEK WALICKI (MINISTRY OF SCIENVND HIGHER EDUCATION), JAN PETRUS (JOINT FUND TREASURER), AND TADEUSZ CIEPLINSKI AND ELZBIETA PIECHOCKA (BOTH FROM THE FINANCE MINISTRY). KAPUSTA ACTED AS CHAIRMAN OF WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE A FAIRLY WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL JOINT FUND ISSUES. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.

2. WITH REFERENCE TO PARAGRAPHS A-3 OF THE DAVIES-KRZAK EXCHANGE OF LETTERS OF DECEMBER 11, 1976, THE POLISH PARTICIPANTS STRESSED THE NEED TO WORK OUT GUIDELINES FOR A UNIFORM INTERPRETATION BY ALL AGENCIES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE TERM "APPROPRIATELY RELATED", AND PROPOSED THAT SUCH GUIDELINES BE DISCUSSED BY THE WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS IN ADVANCE OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE JOINT BOARD. THEY SAID THEY HAD UNDERSTOOD FROM WILLIAM ROOT DURING HIS VISITS HERE LAST YEAR THE US
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SIDE WAS PREPARED TO TAKE A BROAD AND FLEXILE ATTITUDE IN CONSIDERING APPROPRIATE RELATIONSHIPS OF ADDITIONAL FINANCING TO EXISTING PROJECTS, AND THEREFORE THEY HAD NOT ANTICIPATED THE DIFFICULTIES SEVERAL POLISH AGENCIES ARE NOW ENCOUNTERING IN TRYING TO MATCH POLISH-PROPOSED PROJECTS WITH EXISTING, US-SUPPORTED PROJECTS. SCIATT SAID HE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE SOON

A STATEMENT AMPLIFYING THE US INTERPRETATION OF AN APPROPRIATE RELATIONSHIP, WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD HELP CLARIFY THIS MATTER.

3. KAPUSTA THEN ASKED WHETHER ANY PART OF THE US DOLS 1.25 MILLION SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH A-4 OF THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS MIGHT BE USED FOR PAYMENT OF PER DIEM AND MISCELLANEOUS TRAVEL EXPENSES OF POLISH TRAVELERS IN THE US. SCIATT DREW UPON THE GUIDANCE IN STATE 267697 IN RESPONDING THAT SUCH PAYMENT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED UNDER THE OFFSET PROCEDURE NOTED IN PARAGRAPH A-4, BUT WOULD NOT BE CHANGED TO THE 1.25 MILLION CELING.

4. THE NEXT QUESTION INDICATED THE POLISH SIDE'S ASSUMPTION THAT PL-480 PROJECTS WERE INELIGIBLE FOR CONVERSION TO JOINT FINANCING. AGAIN STATE 267697 WAS UTILIZED TO CORRECT THIS.

5. WALICKI THEN REFERRED TO THE SCIATT'S LETTER CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR USE OF AMERICAN CARRIERS. HE SAID HE WISHED TO ASSURE US THAT ANY INSTANCES OF NON-OBSERVANCE DID NOT REFLECT ILL WILL OR DELIBERATE EVASION, THAT HE HAD CANVASSED ALL THE CONCERNED POLISH AGENCIES AND FOUND GENERAL COMPLIANCE, AND THAT THE ONLY EXCEPTIONAL CASES INVOLVED THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, WHICH WAS NOW BETTER INFORMED OF THE REQUIREMENTS.
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6. THE FINANCE MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES NEXT SAID THAT THEY WOULD PROVIDE WITHIN TWO WEEKS INFORMATION ON GOP PER DIEM RATES FOR TRAVELERS OUTSIDE POLAND, WHICH THEY SAID DO NOT EXCEED US RATES. THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEIR RATES APPLIED TO ALL POLES ABROAD, JUST AS THE US SIDE WISHES THE STANDARD USG RATES TO APPLY FOR AMERICAN TRAVELERS ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS. SCIATT NOTED THAT SOME PROJECT AGREEMENTS SPECIFIED PER DIEM RATES THAT MIGHT BE BELOW CURRENT USG OR GOP RATES. THE POLES RESPONDED THAT THEY WOULD WISH IN SUCH CASES TO HAVE THE PER DIEM RATES RAISED TO CURRENT LEVELS, WHICH COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE SAME BUDGET ALLOCATION BY SHORTENING THE TRAVEL PERIOD OR REDUCING THE NUMBER OF TRAVELERS, OR ALTERNATIVELY BY SHIFTING FUNDS FROM ANOTHER PART OF THE PROJECT GUDGET INTO THE TRAVEL CATEGORY. THEY SUGGESTED THIS WAS ANOTHER SUBJECT THAT THE WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS SHOULD DISCUSS.

7. IN CONCLUSION, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PARTICIPANTS WOULD RESUME THE DISCUSSION SOON, TO SEE WHAT MUTUAL

UNDERSTANDING COULD BE REACHED ON OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS,
BEFORE CONSIDERING WHAT MIGHT NEED TO BE REFERRED TO
THE WORKING GROUP.

8. COMMENT. THE MEETING WAS A WELCOME INDICATION
THAT THE POLISH AGENCIES ARE NOW DEVOTING SERIOUS
ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF UTILIZING THE POLISH
CONTRIBUTION TO THE JOINT FUND. IN ANTICIPATION OF THE
NEXT MEETING, WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE CONCERNING
THE LIMITS OF FLEXIBILITY ON THE US SIDE REGARDING RELATIONSHIPS
BETWEEN PROPOSED AND EXISTING PROJECTS, AS ENVISAGED IN
PARAGRAPHS C OF STATE 267697, AN INDICATIONS OF THE
READINESS OF NSF AND ANY OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES TO
CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS TO RAISE PER DIEM RATES WHEN LOWER
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THAN PREVAILING USG AND GOP LEVELS, AND ANY ADDITIONAL
COMMENTS THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN MOVING AHEAD THE
DIALOGUE HERE. END COMMENT.
DAVIES

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